

Canadian Multiculturalism Act

will also increase. The next move could be to 15 or to 17, depending on the total membership of the House. It is a minor point, but I think it is one that should be cleared up at the earliest possible opportunity.

Finally, obviously I am very proud to have been part of this process that has brought forward what I think it is a good piece of legislation on balance. We will never get perfect legislation out of this Chamber or any other Chamber of this kind, a democratic legislature, but certainly we can always strive to do our best. I truly believe that members of the committee, the chairperson of the committee, the Parliamentary Secretary, the Minister, and those of us who had the privilege to sit on it, did our best and worked hard to bring forward what I consider to be a good Bill of we can all be proud.

● (1230)

A great deal of the thanks has to go to a gentleman who obviously cannot be here today to speak on this Bill, Mr. Bill Snarr, the senior public servant involved in helping pilot this Bill through committee. He was of great help, I can assure you, to an opposition Member like myself. He worked in an extremely objective and helpful and certainly knowledgeable way. I think I can speak on behalf of Minister this morning in public and extend our heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Snarr. I believe he is reaching pretty well the end of his public service career and this is probably the last piece of legislation he will take an active part in. Therefore, on behalf of all Members of the House, I want to extend to Bill Snarr a very long and happy retirement.

I hope this Act will never have to be used, certainly not Clauses 3 and 4. We have no control, of course, over natural disasters. I hope future governments will use it with caution and responsibility, and I am sure they will.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Questions or comments?

Mr. Beatty: Madam Speaker, I would like to use the vehicle of questions and comments to fully associate myself with the remarks of my friend from Brant with respect to Mr. Bill Snarr. Mr. Snarr has served Canadians for over three decades with a tremendously distinguished record. This Bill is certainly fitting testimony to the tremendous contribution he made. I know Members on all sides of the House have been tremendously impressed by his dedication, knowledge, flexibility and determination to ensure that legislation passed by this House is good and well prepared. I think he developed many friendships, particularly in committee, over the time the Bill was under study and certainly I felt privileged to know Mr. Snarr, both as a member of the Opposition prior to the last election, and as a member of the Government. He has retired from Emergency Preparedness Canada and is currently serving as senior adviser to me.

This represents, as the Hon. Member indicated, probably the last piece of legislation that he would be associated with,

although there is still an important contribution for him to make to Canadians. However, the mere fact that this Bill has passed unanimously with the support of Members on all sides of this House certainly attests to the tremendous contribution which Bill Snarr made to Canadians. We will certainly miss his contribution to the public service.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Motion agreed to, amendments read the second time and concurred in.

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[Translation]

CANADIAN MULTICULTURALISM ACT

MEASURE TO ENACT

The House proceeded with consideration of Bill C-93, an Act for the preservation and enhancement of multiculturalism in Canada, reported with amendments by a Legislative Committee.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): There are thirty-two (32) motions in amendment on the Notice Paper for the report stage of Bill C-93, an Act for the preservation and enhancement of multiculturalism in Canada.

[English]

Motions Nos. 1, 2 and 3, standing in the names of the Hon. Member for Thunder Bay—Nipigon (Mr. Epp), the Hon. Member for York West (Mr. Marchi) and the Hon. Member for La Prairie (Mr. Jourdenais), respectively attempt to include Parliament and the courts within the scope of the Bill. This proposal is taking the Bill beyond what was envisaged when the House approved its principle at second reading when it defined federal institutions.

Second, this motion is proposing a substantive change to the interpretation clause of the Bill which, as Hon. Members are aware, is not an acceptable practice in accordance with Beauchesne's Citation 773(10). Therefore, I must declare the motions procedurally unacceptable in that they go beyond the scope of the Bill as defined in Beauchesne's Citation 773(1).

[Translation]

Motions numbered 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 30, 31 and 32 are acceptable and will be debated together but voted upon as follows:

[English]

An affirmative vote on Motion No. 4 obviates the need for a vote to be taken on Motions Nos. 5 and 6. However, a negative vote on Motion No. 4 necessitates the requirement that a vote be taken on Motion No. 5. Consequently, an affirmative vote on Motion No. 5 obviates the need for a vote to be taken on Motion No. 6. Nevertheless, a negative vote on Motion No. 5 necessitates the requirement that a vote be taken on Motion No. 6.